



EASTERN OREGON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:
MONDAY MUSINGS

October 21, 2013

Colleagues,

Last week I received the initial draft commendations and recommendations from two of our accrediting bodies: the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE). The former is for our "Third Year Review" and the latter is for our College of Business.

As you all know, the accreditation process is critical for many reasons. It is also symbolic because our peers and colleagues – those who work at other similar universities – conduct it. This peer review process is fundamental as the insights and comments we receive are based on an in-depth analysis of our University and programs, and are made by leading practitioners and academicians in the field.

When preparing to receive the accreditation reports, one cannot help but feel a bit anxious, as they divulge the results of our work and efforts. Despite the excellent work put into our self-studies and the highlighting of areas we know we must improve on, there are always nagging questions. What did we miss? What did they find that we didn't know? Will our accreditation be affirmed, or will we be put on probation?

When the accreditation teams presented their commendations and recommendations my uneasiness was vanquished. In fact, I was elated to hear their findings. Both teams spoke effusively of our dedication to serving students and our commitment to the complete undergraduate experience. The teams also commended us on our commitment to the region and how we serve the greater community in ways that other regional universities should aspire to. They expounded on and commended us for our dedication to ensuring that we are able to, despite our financial hardships, fulfill our mission, and for our commitment to the transparency and inclusionary process of decision-making. The NWCCU team went even further to provide a specific and powerful commendation on our proactive, strategic and aggressive approach to dealing with the issues and situations we have encountered over the past several years, and our use of shared governance and other campus leaders in this process.

Yes, each report did make recommendations we must work on – which include updating our University catalog to reflect revised programmatic changes and standardizing the academic portfolio review process. However, none of the recommendations were viewed to be out of compliance and/or significant enough to require further studies and reports. It was clear both teams were highly impressed by our University, faculty and staff, and acknowledged the impact

we have on students and the manner in which they, too, are involved in our decision-making processes.

Thank you to everyone who played a role in this process, from data collection and analysis, writing the self-studies, participating in the visitation of the accreditation teams and many other functions. There are too many to mention by name, but the University owes you a great deal of appreciation for your work, insights and dedication.

Moreover, thank you all for your commitment to EOU's mission, our students and serving our region on a daily basis. Both of these reports highlight our efforts and we all should be proud of the findings of the two independent teams. Once the reports become official, over the next two months, they will be posted on our website.

The Stars of Eastern:

On a frequent basis I receive e-mails or other communication in which one member of our community praises the outstanding work and significant contributions of another. Usually, I share the information with members of their division. However, in light of the commendations from our accreditation reports, I believe it is important to share these accolades across the University. As such, each week I will highlight one member of our community whose contributions to EOU have been brought to my attention.

This week's "Star of Eastern" is Jon Norris. Dr. Rebecca Hartman wrote the following to me:

"I'm running a 'hybrid' class in which online students are brought in electronically to my seated class through Megameeting conferencing software. Jon has worked tirelessly since before the start of the term to work out the kinks, make sure I have all the support I need, and offer suggestions for improving the experience for students.

By tirelessly, I mean Jon and I were exchanging e-mails over the weekends as we launched this thing. Jon was working into Sunday evenings to make sure the set up was optimal for my class. Even now, when things are relatively smooth, Jon is always there at the start of class to make sure everything is running well with the software, and to check if I need any support from him.

It's such a pleasure, as a faculty member, to work with such a professional colleague. It's that kind of support that makes it possible for me to focus on teaching and provide the best experience to EOU students possible. I certainly hope Jon gets the recognition he deserves, as I suspect I am not the only faculty member who relies on his expertise and assistance."

To nominate a "Star of Eastern" just send me a quick e-mail or drop me a line.

Kudos and Miscellaneous

Tomorrow, Oct, 22, Ars Poetica begins its season with Lidia Yuknavitch reading from her novel, "Dora: A Headcase." The event starts at 7:30 p.m. in Pierce Library. Our local and sensational band, Sum People, will also perform. For more information see www.eou.edu/news-press/ars-poetica-yuknavitch.

Tawnya Lubbes, MTE, Nancy Knowles, Ph.D. and Stephen Clements, Ph.D., will share their research for the colloquium this week. Their presentation, "Translation and Transformation of Writing Pedagogy: Moving From Face-to-Face to Online," begins at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 in Ackerman Hall, Room 201. Heidi Harris, Ph.D., an associate professor at the University of Arkansas, and Jacob Harris, an instructor at Pulaski Academy in Little Rock, will join them. For more information, see www.eou.edu/news-press/faculty-panel-colloquium.

Institutional governance meetings continue this week, and I will host students for "Pizza with Bob" at 5 p.m. Oct. 24 in Hoke 339. Next week don't forget our **University Hall** at 3 p.m. Oct. 29 in Huber Auditorium in Badgley. The governance website hosts information and a survey at www.eou.edu/governance.

Preview Day is planned for this Saturday, Oct. 26, starting at 9 a.m. in the Badgley Hall foyer. We are expecting 90 students to visit campus that day to learn about our outstanding academic programs, student life and more! Please help us promote your academic or student program by joining the event. Contact the Admissions Office for more information at 541-962-3393.

This is "National Drug Free Week" and the Union County Safe Communities Coalition is sponsoring many drug free awareness programs, including "Wear Red for Drug Free" on Wednesday. Please help support this important project by wearing red Oct. 23.

Thank you for you continued dedication to EOU and our students.

Very respectfully,

Bob

Bob Davies
President